

ART. II.—*Notes on Australian Cicadidae.*

BY HOWARD ASHTON.

(With Plate II.).

[Read 14th May, 1914].

Of the cicadas described below, two belong to the distinctively Australian genus *Macrotristria*, and come from Northern Australia, having been given to me by Mr. Chas. French, junr. Government Entomologist. One of them is remarkable for its resemblance to *Thopha Sessiliba*, Dist. so closely resembling it in general appearance that it might even be mistaken on a passing glance. The other is not remarkable in any way except for its almost uniform chestnut colour. In this it resembles *M. nigrosignata*, Dist., but it is distinct from this species in its more sessile eyes, its narrower thorax, and the lack of the black basal area and membrane to the tegmina. I have named it after Mr. French. The other two belong to the genus *Psaltoda*, one of them coming from Lord Howe Island.

Sub-family CICADINAE.

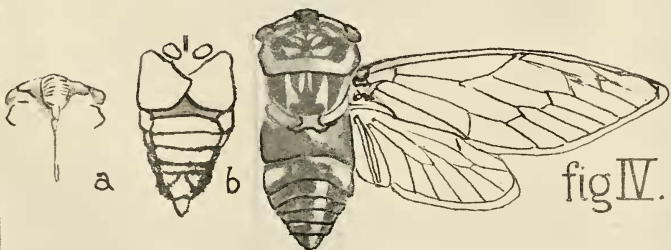
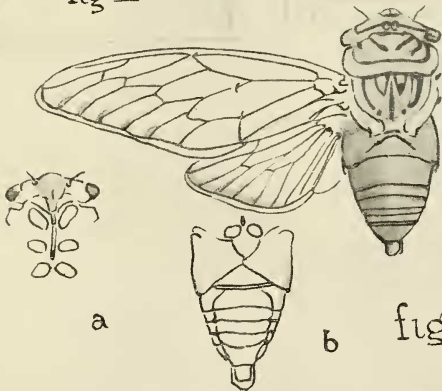
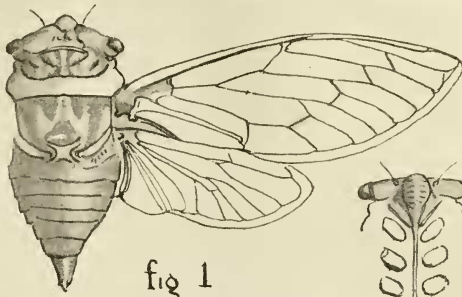
Division CICADARIA.

Genus MACROTRISTRIA, Stål.

M. FRENCHI, n. sp.

Head deep, reddish-yellow, ocelli surrounded by black, two castaneous spots at base of front.

Pronotum light castaneous, obscure yellowish central longitudinal fascia, posterior margin broad, bright yellow. *Mesonotum* very deep castaneous, with cruciform elevation and posterior margins dull ochraceous. *Abdomen* deep castaneous, shading to black, penultimate segment margined posteriorly with dull yellow. *Tegmina* vitreous, costa and basal cell pale bright yellow, basal membrane orange-red, venation from light fuscous at base to dark fuscous at apex. *Wings* vitreous, venation yellow at base, pale fuscous at apex. *Body* beneath black, face, legs and rostrum cas-



taneous. Space between face and eyes yellow. Abdominal segments shining black, margined with dull ochraceous.

Length.—34 mm., exp. teg. 105 mm.

Hab.—Catherine River, N. Territory, S. Australia.

M. THOPHOIDES, n. sp.

Head and thorax ochraceous. *Head* a little reddish. *Pronotum* with two central longitudinal lines (enclosing a yellow streak), incisures, anterior border of posterior margin, castaneous, posterior margin very broad, stramineous. *Mesonotum* with two short central obconical spots, two longer outer fascia, and the area before the cruciform elevation castaneous. *Abdomen* castaneous. *Tegmina* with costa stramineous, posterior edge and other venation, except ulna castaneous, basal cell deeply and opaquely castaneous, basal membrane ochraceous. Anastomoses to apical areas very faintly infuscated, and traces of suffusion about apices of longitudinal veins to these areas. *Wings* with venation stramineous. Body beneath light castaneous, except for head, which is reddish-yellow. Face prominent, reddish-yellow. *Rostrum* castaneous, darker at tip, reaching hind coxae. The eyes are very sessile, and the head very short above. The species, except for its red and yellow colouration, resembles *M. angularis*, Germ., more than any other of its genus. The wing tips of the specimen are mutilated.

Length.—41 mm.; exp. teg., circ. 120-124 mm.

Hab.—Norseman, W. Australia.

Allied to *M. godingi*, Dist.

Division CYCLOCHILARIA.

Genus PSALTODA, Stål.

PSALTODA ADONIS, n. sp.

Head and thorax green, abdomen brownish luteous. Head, with base of front, narrow fascia between eyes, and region of ocelli black, eyes dark brown, ocelli close together, pale red. *Pronotum* with incisures, inner border of anterior margin, inner and outer borders of posterior margins black. *Mesonotum* with two short central obconical spots yellowish, margined with black, two longer obconical black spots outside these, inwardly excavated with yellowish-green, a central lanceolate line, and two rounded spots at anterior

angles of cruciform elevation, black. Abdomen deep brownish, somewhat luteous, with darker bands on apical segmental margins. Tegmina vitreous, costa green on basal half, thence deep brown. Other venation brown, with apical veins narrowly infuscated and veins at the bases of second and third apical areas deeply and broadly margined with fuscous. Wings with apical veins narrowly fuscously margined. Head beneath with lateral striae, and central sulcus to face black, legs green, with fore and intermediate tibiae and tarsi brown, opercula broad, brown, overlapping at centre, oblique at hind margins, rostrum barely reaching hind coxae.

Length.—37 mm.; exp. teg. 114 mm.

Hab.—Blackbutt, Queensland.

Allied to *P. fumipennis*, Ashton, from which it may be clearly distinguished by the different marking of tegmina and wings, the greater size, the more convex front to head, and the very oblique, angular opercula.

PSALTODA INSULARIS, n. sp.

Head pale yellow; base of front, whole of vertex, and broad fascia from eyes through vertex, black. *Pronotum* black, anterior marginal transverse fascia, followed by two oblique spots, a narrow central fascia and two large triangular discal spots, pale yellow. Posterior margin pale yellow. *Mesonotum* pale yellow, two central obconical spots, the apices of which unite with the lateral angles of a broad central lanceolate spot, which then occupies the whole space before cruciform elevation, and two broader exterior obconical fasciae, black. *Abdomen* shiny black, two patches of silvery tomentum one on each side of second segment. Body beneath yellowish-white, streaks to femora and fore tibiae black, rostrum black, reaching hind coxae. Opercula outwardly oblique, rounded posteriorly. *Tegmina* and wings vitreous, immaculate, venation near base yellowish, outwardly fuscous.

Length, 26 mm., exp. teg. 76 mm.

Hab.—Lord Howe Island.

Allied to *P. harrisii*, Leach.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE.

Fig. 1.—*Macrotristria thophordes*, n. sp. Natural size.

Fig. 2.—*Macrotristria frenchi*, n. sp. Natural size.

Fig. 3.—*Psaltoda adonis*, n. sp. Natural size.

Fig. 4.—*Psaltoda insularis*, n. sp. × 3.